

What is claimed is:

1. An electroluminescent device for displaying an image to a viewer in front of said device, comprising:
  - a front electrode substantially transparent to electroluminescent light;
  - a rear electrode substantially transparent to ambient light;
  - an electroluminescent layer disposed between said electrodes; and
  - an optical interference member for passivating said electroluminescent device and for reducing the reflectance of said ambient light towards said viewer, said member disposed behind said rear electrode.
2. The electroluminescent device defined in claim 1, wherein the electroluminescent layer comprises an organic material.
3. The electroluminescent device defined in claim 1, wherein the electroluminescent layer comprises an inorganic phosphor.
4. A kit for retrofitting onto an electroluminescent device having a front electrode substantially transparent to electroluminescent light, a rear electrode substantially transparent to ambient light, and an electroluminescent layer disposed between said electrodes, said kit comprising:
  - an optical interference member formed on a substrate, such that when said optical interference member is affixed behind said rear electrode the reflectance of ambient light towards a viewer is reduced and said device is passivated.
5. The kit defined in claim 4, further comprising an anti-reflective layer formed on said optical interference member.
6. The kit defined in claim 4, wherein said optical interference member comprises a semi-absorbent layer, a transparent layer and a reflecting layer.

7. The kit defined in claim 4, wherein said electroluminescent layer is tris(8-hydroxyquinoline aluminum).
8. The kit defined in claim 4, wherein said electroluminescent layer is doped tris (8 hydroxyquinoline aluminum).
9. The kit defined in claim 4, including an additional optical interference member between said electroluminescent layer and said rear electrode.
10. The kit defined in claim 4, wherein said optical interference member comprises a transparent layer.
11. The kit defined in claim 4, wherein said electroluminescent layer is polymer-based.
12. The kit defined in claim 4, including a spacer for placement intermediate said rear electrode and said optical interference member and a two part transparent silicone-gel for filling a cavity between said rear electrode and said optical interference member when said rear electrode, said spacer and said optical interference member are assembled.
13. A method of fabricating an electroluminescent device for displaying an image to a viewer in front of said device, comprising the steps of:
  - depositing a substantially transparent front electrode onto a substantially transparent substrate;
  - depositing an electroluminescent layer onto said substrate such that said front electrode is intermediate said electroluminescent layer and said substrate;
  - depositing a substantially transparent rear electrode onto said substrate such that said front electrode and said electroluminescent layer are intermediate said rear electrode and said front electrode; and,

affixing an optical interference member behind said rear electrode, said optical interference member for passivating said electroluminescent device and for reducing the ambient light reflected towards said viewer.

14. The method defined in claim 13, wherein said step of affixing comprises the steps of depositing said optical interference member using vacuum deposition.

15. The method defined in claim 13, wherein said optical interference member includes a semi-absorbent layer, a substantially transparent layer and a reflecting layer.

16. The method defined in claim 13, wherein said step of affixing comprises the steps of:

- attaching a spacer to said rear electrode;
- attaching said optical interference member to said rear electrode; and
- filling a cavity intermediate said optical interference member and said electrode with a substantially transparent passivation material.

17. The method defined in claim 16, wherein said passivation material is a silicone-gel.

18. The method defined in claim 16, wherein said gel is a two-part silicone-gel.

19. The method defined in claim 17, wherein said gel is substantially the same as Part Number RTV6166 of General Electric Corporation.

20. The use of an silicone gel intermediate a passivating layer and a rear electrode of an electroluminescent device.

21. An electroluminescent device comprising a front electorde, a rear electrode and a passivating layer, wherein the passivating layer comprises a malleable gel material.

22. The electroluminescent device defined in claim 21, wherein the passivating material comprises a silicone gel.

23. The electroluminescent device defined in claim 22, wherein the silicone gel is derived from a first liquid reactant and a second liquid reactant which, when combined, cure to form the silicone gel.